

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 DECEMBER 1981

U.S.-Israeli Relations

Jerusalem radio broadcast remarks made by Prime Minister Menahem Begin during a 20 December meeting with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis in which he asserted that the U.S. suspension of the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation has canceled that agreement. In his strongly worded remarks, which he later reported to the Cabinet, Begin accused the United States of trying to make Israel a "hostage" to the cooperation agreement and of "boasting" about penalizing Israel. Asking rhetorically if Israel is a "banana republic" or a "vassal" of the United States, Begin said: "You will not daunt us with penalties." He asked Ambassador Lewis to inform the U.S. secretary of state that the Golan Heights Law will remain in effect and that "there is no force in the world that will bring about its revocation."

Elsewhere in his remarks Begin accused the U.S. administration of violating President Ronald Reagan's word that the United States would buy \$200 million worth of Israeli military equipment and of thereby attempting to hit Israel in the pocket. He then went on to denounce an alleged anti-Semitic campaign waged in the United States during the administration's attempts to obtain Senate approval of the sale of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

Begin told Lewis that while Israel does not intend to start a war in Lebanon, it will launch a "counterattack" if it is attacked by either "the terrorists or Syria." According to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, he also warned that if the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers is not established, Israel will not complete its withdrawal from the Sinai.

According to Jerusalem radio, several ministers said after the Cabinet meeting that Begin's remarks should not be regarded as an official Israeli reaction to the U.S. sanctions. IDF radio noted the assertion by several ministers that the Cabinet must still discuss the issue and formulate an official position. In a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or stressed that the prime minister speaks on behalf of the government and does not need formal Cabinet authorization for his remarks. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted that Begin's remarks expressed the Cabinet's point of view, adding that the United States has gone too far in its dealings with Israel.

The opposition Shinuy faction submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government for its handling of the dispute with the United States, Jerusalem television reported. Jerusalem radio cited Labor Party Secretary Hayim Bar-Lev as stating that the Israeli reaction has worsened the crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations.

On 18 December the radio had reported the expression of "regret and deep disappointment" by Israeli Ambassador Efrayim 'Evron at the U.S. decision to suspend the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding and his assertion that Israel's Golan Heights does not violate any UN resolution or the Camp David agreements. The next day the radio broadcast a recorded interview with defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in which he questioned the "credibility" of the United States as a partner in international agreements and claimed that the U.S. reaction was "immature". In a Jerusalem television interview broadcast later that day, Sharon asserted that the suspension of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation memorandum would harm the United States as much as Israel.

Arab Comment on Golan Issue, U.S. Reaction

Syrian reaction to the UN vote in the wake of the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel's application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights, Monte Carlo radio broadcast an 18 December interview with Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Nasir Qadduri in which he expressed Syria's satisfaction with the vote and repeatedly stressed the need to ensure that the resolution is implemented.

Noting that the United States voted in favor of the resolution, Qadduri expressed the hope that Security Council unanimity will continue, forcing Israel to comply. Monte Carlo radio had earlier reported a meeting in Damascus between Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and U.S. Ambassador Robert Paganelli, noting that it was part of a series of contacts between the two governments regarding the Golan issue.

An 18 December commentary broadcast by Damascus radio termed the UN Security Council vote a "positive and encouraging beginning" and emphasized the need for appropriate measures by the Security Council to ensure Israeli compliance. A TISHRIN article, reviewed by Damascus radio, scorned Israeli Defense Minister Sharon's announcement that Israel continues to abide by the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire agreement, claiming that the Golan Heights Law not only violates that agreement but is a declaration of war against Syria. TISHRIN went on to assert that Sharon's denunciation of the U.S. vote at the UN Security Council proves that his only aim is to involve the United States in a war against Syria and the other Arabs.

Egyptian Comment -- According to Cairo radio, President Husni Mubarak told journalists on 19 December that the U.S. decision to suspend the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement is "encouraging," adding that Egypt hopes to see a reasonable solution to the problem so that differences will not escalate. MA'ARIV reported that Mubarak sent a personal message to Prime Minister Begin on 18 December asking Israel to reconsider applying Israeli law to the Golan. It noted that the message, which was "restrained," emphasized the need for joint Egyptian-Israeli efforts to expand the basis for peace.

PLO Reaction -- According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine's English service, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat dismissed the U.S. suspension of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement as a "ploy." Analyzing the "propaganda battle" between the United States and Israel, the Voice of Palestine asserted that it does not represent a real crisis in relations, but instead may serve to spare the United States embarrassment if Israel launches a new war against Lebanon or Syria or decides not to complete its withdrawal from the Sinai.

PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar told the Voice of Palestine on 18 December that Israeli moves prove that illusions about resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and coexisting with Israel must be abandoned, while Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told a Monte Carlo radio correspondent that all Arab fronts, including Jordan and Syria, should be opened for Fedayeen action because fighting is the "only option."

Saudi, Jordanian Comment -- An unattributed commentary broadcast by Riyadh radio opined that the U.S. suspension of the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel is a "good sign," but WAKH cited AL-MADINAH as saying that the move will not placate the Arabs. According to Amman radio, the Jordanian paper AR-RA'Y welcomed the U.S. action. However, an editorial in the English-language JORDAN TIMES questioned why the United States plans to go ahead with military aid to Israel if Israeli moves on the Golan displease it.

Lebanon

Bombs, Security Situation -- Beirut radio reported that a booby-trapped vehicle exploded in the UNESCO area of western Beirut on 19 December, killing six persons, including five security men who had arrived on the scene following a tip-off about a suspicious vehicle. According to AFP and the Voice of Palestine, 10 people were killed by the blast. The following day, another explosion, in a car parked under the Cola bridge, killed two persons in the vehicle, Beirut radio reported. The radio also noted that an explosion on 19 December destroyed a Syrian helicopter parked at Riyaq airbase.

Rejection of Phalangist Initiative -- The Voice of Palestine reported on 19 December that the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement rejected the Phalangist initiative for a solution to the Lebanese crisis. The National Movement categorically rejected plans to strike at the Palestinian-Lebanese National Movement armed presence in the South as well as any attempt to entrust security tasks to the Lebanese Army.

UNIFIL Extension -- Beirut radio broadcast comments by Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus on the UN Security Council's decision to extend UNIFIL's mandate for another 6 months. According to Butrus, some aspects of the UN resolution evade Lebanon's demands for a renewal of the UNIFIL mandate on "specific bases" that include a warning to Israel to withdraw and an increase in the size and powers of UNIFIL.

PLO

The Voice of Palestine reported that a Palestinian Revolution spokesman denied local and foreign media reports of a recent attempt on the life of PLO Executive Chairman 'Arafat. Describing such reports as fabricated propaganda and totally false, the spokesman indicated that they stemmed from a recent attack on one of 'Arafat's drivers as he was returning home.

The Voice of Palestine also reported that 'Arafat's legal adviser, Faruq Fahmi al-Husayni, died on 18 December. Citing Wafa, AFP said Al-Husayni died "after an illness."

Libya

JANA on Kidnapping, Reagan -- Noting a report by the Italian paper IL GIORNALE DI SICILIA that U.S. officials do not rule out Libyan involvement in the kidnapping of U.S. Gen James Dozier, JANA denied any Libyan involvement in the affair and said that by carrying this report, the paper had confirmed its status as a lackey of the CIA.

Another JANA commentary over the weekend focused on President Ronald Reagan's 17 December press conference, asserting that the U.S. President proved entirely incapable of providing any evidence to prove his allegation that Libya has dispatched a squad to assassinate him.

Relations With Kuwait -- JANA reported that Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and a number of top officials began talks in Tripoli with a Kuwaiti delegation on 19 December. Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah headed the Kuwaiti side.

Gulf Affairs

According to WAKH, Bahraini security forces discovered another cache of arms belonging to the recently arrested sabotage group. WAKH later reported that in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA', Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah called on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to form a rapid deployment force to protect the security of the GCC countries. He asserted that the sabotage plot uncovered in Bahrain was engineered by Iran and was intended to create disturbances in other Gulf countries as well.

According to WAKH, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia signed a security cooperation agreement during a visit to Bahrain by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. WAKH noted that in a 20 December press conference in Manama, Prince Nayif said the security agreement will "organize relations" between the Bahraini and Saudi interior ministers and security organizations. Indicating that not all the facts about the agreement can be publicized for security reasons, he also expressed hope that all the Gulf countries will sign a unified security agreement. He called on Iran to stop supporting sabotage activities in the Gulf and said that while the Iranians had said at the beginning of their revolution that they would not act as the Gulf's policeman, they have now become "the Gulf's terrorists." Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, the Saudi interior minister said Arabs "cannot remain neutral and leave Iraq alone in the arena." Arabs must support Iraq, he continued, but must at the same time work to bring about an end to the war.

Meanwhile, PARS cited an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement that charges of Iranian involvement in the Bahraini sabotage plot represent a desperate effort by the U.S. Government to revenge the defeats of the Iraqi Army and to whitewash the collapse of the Saudi Middle East peace plan.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- An 18 December Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said Iraqi forces killed more than 2,144 Iranians during attacks in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions. INA later reported an Iraqi request to the International Red Cross to have the Iranian authorities remove the bodies of "thousands" of Iranian dead from the battlefields in that region. On the other hand, an Iranian Joint Staff communique, broadcast by Tehran radio on 19 December, claimed that the Iraqis had been forced to retreat from their counteroffensive in Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar, leaving behind 100 dead. Iraq's 20 December armed forces communique, carried by INA, continued to claim Iraqi victories in the area. According to PARS, the deputy commander of Iran's western military operations announced that several Iraqi cities are "under the domination" of Iran and that Iranian forces will enter them if Iraqi aggression continues.

Musavi Denies Iraqi Charge -- PARS reported a denial by Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi that Iran and Syria were responsible for the recent explosion at the Iraqi Embassy in Lebanon.

Iran

During an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Air Force Commander Col Mohammad Hasan Mo'inpur said that a great many people have been reinstated into the air force recently and urged those who had previously been dismissed to return to duty and collect their back pay. He indicated that many had been expelled when the air force decided to make "changes" after the flight of former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in July, but that the plan for changes was canceled when it was decided that it was unnecessary.

In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio after the 19 December Supreme Defense Council meeting, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i reiterated Iran's denial that it has attempted to purchase F-14 spare parts from the United States either directly or indirectly. However, Khamene'i asserted that the United States is holding a large quantity of such spare parts that were ordered and paid for by the late shah and therefore belong to Iran.

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SOVIETS REPORTEDLY WARN KHALQ FACTION LEADERS

GF181830 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 14 Dec 81 p 6

[Text] London, 13 Dec (AAP) -- According to a reliable and well-informed source in Kabul, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul has informed Khalq faction leaders that they cannot be given any further share in the power and that unless they change their attitude toward members of the Parcham faction, they will incur the Soviet Union's wrath.

It has been revealed that the Soviet ambassador summoned prominent Khalq Party leaders -- Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, Sher Jan Mazduryar and Saleh Mohammad Ziray -- to the Soviet Embassy late at night on 7 December and told them to change their attitude.

Another very reliable source has revealed that several prominent district leaders in the Karmal administration have established contacts with the mujahidin and have offered their services against the Parcham faction.

1982 AID AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

GF191628 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] The Soviet Union will supply the DRA with 80,000 tons of wheat and 10,000 tons of flour and other consumer goods in 1982. The total price of the goods is estimated to be 20 million rubles.

In accordance with an agreement signed between the DRA Commerce Ministry and the Soviet trade agency in Kabul, the Soviet Union will supply these goods during the coming year.

KARMAL ADDRESSES SEVENTH PDPA PLENUM 5 DEC

LD201918 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1715 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, at the Seventh PDPA Central Committee Plenum on 5 December in Kabul -- read by announcer]

[Summary] "Dear comrades, the Seventh PDPA Central Committee Plenum is discussing very important issues."

Under the present conditions in the country we should direct the routine duties of the party toward the betterment of matters related to the party, to local organs of the state power and to social organizations.

"The ideals of the glorious April Revolution have gained further support among our compatriots. The social bases of our revolution are being broadened. Support for the just struggle of the people of Afghanistan is also increasing from the progressive forces. We declare a true struggle against insecurity, [word indistinct], factional tendencies and lack of initiatives.

"During the course of 10 months, around 10,000 candidate members have been recruited to the ranks of the PDPA and also during the same period a number of PDPA members have, for various reasons, been expelled from the party organizations. Some of these comrades have heroically sacrificed their dear lives for the sake of the homeland, revolution and the party. The people, homeland and the party will never forget the heroism and self-sacrifices of these martyrs on the path of revolution."

"A number of comrades, who committed actions contrary to the charter of the PDPA, were expelled from the party.

"Finally, it is very important that the number of representatives of the progressive strata and classes of our society in the party has been increased. [Number indistinct] of those who have joined and have been accepted in the ranks of the party in the first half of this year are workers, artisans and peasants. And in those provinces which are industrially and agriculturally developed, this figure rises from 50 percent to 75 percent."

In the army and sarandoy the party should try to (?increase) the number of troops and NCO's recruited from the party. At the time of acceptance of new members to the party, the party committees and other administrative organs should try to recruit those who are loyal to the revolution and those who show self-sacrifice in defending the power of the people.

"Struggle to maintain the unity of the party constitutes a very important aspect of the party work. Unfortunately, elements and signs of factionalism and [word indistinct] are still being witnessed and they are not principally assessed by the party. We all struggle along the path of a united and common goal.

"Comrades, the credibility of the party committees is increasing. They are playing their role now in consolidating the state power, implementing and putting into practice the call-up and conscription to the armed forces, bettering the work of departments and administrations. The party activists are playing an advanced role in all measures concerning the struggle against the counterrevolutionaries."

We must prepare the party cadres and all organizations for the improvement of ideological, political and training work. The (?lecturers) of the party committees can do a lot of work in this regard and we have experience.

"For example, the statements by the party committee spokesmen of the Kabul city PDPA committee drew broad reaction at the time of the formation of the National Fatherland Front [NFF]. But it should be said clearly that their statement was of a temporary nature. Some of the party and government leaders stubbornly do not want to go among the people; and the party committees, too, do not show the necessary example in this regard. Continuous and consistent political work must be the essence of party life of every party authority. To propogate and spread political ideals has become vitally necessary. It is, therefore, necessary to assign the best cadres of the party to this work."

The antihuman character of imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, international reaction and internal counterrevolutionaries ought to be actively and seriously exposed.

"Comrades, the mass media has a very responsible task to accomplish. The PDPA Central Committee has done, and will continue to do more work in this regard toward increasing the role of the press, radio and television in deepening the revolutionary process. In this area a lot still has to be done. In the near future the BAKHTAR agency will be promoted to the level of a ministry of the DRA, an independent body, which will work under the direct leadership of the Central Committee and the DRA Council of Ministers. It is envisaged that the branches of this ministry will be expanded inside and outside the country.

"Comrades: The processes of restoring and improving the new and revolutionary media is not that easy. These processes require a concentration of the efforts of party committees and all ideological workers in the future as well."

"In order to enable the single government system of distribution and broadcasting [as heard], which was created a while ago, to accomplish its duties regularly in the country, much work still has to be done. This is a political task and we cannot accept that the party's militant statements reach the people with much delay, or sometimes never reach the masses.

"In accordance with the Central Committee decision, the ministries and departments which are in charge of press distribution and broadcasting must immediately take practical measures to remove shortcomings and deficiencies in this task of extraordinary importance.

"Comrades: As is mentioned in the guideline documents of our party, all ideological work must be intensified and strengthened to complete the struggle against the counterrevolution and against foreign interference. This task must cause revolutionary enthusiasm and fervor among the masses, and in the final analysis it should secure the support of the majority of the inhabitants of the country for the revolutionary authority in Afghanistan. The level of the ideological awareness of members and candidate members of the PDPA must be raised and the role of the party organizations in ideological training must be enhanced.

"Comrades: The PDPA and government have recently taken a series of measures to strengthen and enhance the war capability of the DRA Armed Forces, in the field of military organization.

"The Defense Council was formed to harmonize the efforts of the party and government organs, army, sarandoy and government information services [KHAD] in the struggle against the counterrevolution.

"The resolution about the conscription and callup of reserves to military service is being implemented. In order to complete the cadres of junior military officers, supplementary provisions have been enforced regarding the granting of the ranks of 3rd, 2nd and 1st lieutenant to the military staff and to those who showed courage and heroism in the war against the rebels, without consideration of their educational level.

"Work has been expanded to get soldiers and NCO's to stay on voluntarily for longer periods and also in order to recruit them to the sarandoy.

"Our other duty in consolidating the armed forces is to enhance the militancy and political readiness of all classes of the army, to enhance the capability and war readiness of the officers and improve party and political work in the army and sarandoy troops'. This is the central issue in the task of enhancing the war capability of the armed forces. This issue requires relentless perseverance of not only the commanding authorities, the political and primary organizations of the armed forces, but of the PDPA Central Committee, of the DRA Government and of all regional committees and state authorities.

"The DRA Armed Forces Political Affairs Department and other political departments and offices are dutybound to devote their particular attention to the mental and psychological proximity of the officers, NCO's and troops. Active political work must be promoted daily among all classes and strata of society, among all people and tribes residing in the DRA, in a fraternal and patriotic spirit and in observance of the sacred religion of Islam and in the struggle against illiteracy [as heard].

"Comrades: In connection with the country's economic predicament, it must be said that despite strong resistance by internal and external reaction, specific social and political transformations are being realized in the country."

"There are a lot of difficulties in the economy. The material damage caused by counter-revolutionary actions on agriculture, industry, transport and communication, are great. Subjective factors such as the superiority of the private sector in the national production, the nonexistence of leadership experience under the new circumstances and a shortage of expertise, also play their part."

"Comrades: In the present stage of the revolution's development national and tribal relations acquire particular importance. The party and the revolutionary government are relentlessly implementing a policy of equal development of all nationalities, tribes and clans and attracting national minorities to the revolutionary transformation of the country.

"In the field of national policy the party regards itself dutybound to announce in a separate document the outstanding principle of this policy. This will be of great political importance for the stabilization of the political conditions in the country and for the evolution of the new society. In view of the importance of this issue, the draft of the announcement addressing the nationalities, tribes and clans of the country has been formulated and will be presented to this plenum for evaluation.

"Among its practical activities the party will take specific measures to secure respect for and defend the sacred religion of Islam and guarantee freedom to perform religious rituals, as announced in the Basic Principles of the DRA. Meanwhile, the party will prevent all attempts to exploit religion for antigovernment and antipeople motives.

"In the course of the relentless and persistent implementation of the party's strategic policy in the accomplishment of its duties we should show flexibility. In this respect we can and even must make compromises, of course, within permissible and reasonable limits and maintaining faith with the principles. This will have a bearing on all spheres of our activities, among them national and tribal relations and, especially, with our own relations and contacts with various groups who have chosen progressive duties.

"Despite diversity in the methods and forms of struggle, we must find common ground and employ it more actively in the accomplishment of duties faced by our united homeland and for the struggle for all-nation peace. Our work and efforts for the accomplishment of progressive duties in the direction of struggle for the glorious future of our people will be properly perceived and accepted by them and this will make it possible to remove the mask from the face of the enemies of the people and of Islam, the real and deceptive enemies of the revolution and of our beloved homeland.

"In this connection, there is a real need to convene an all-nation conference of the PDPA to formulate the contents of activity in the near future. Such a program, which will be prepared by collective thought, will be a base for further unity of the party ranks around the PDPA Central Committee and for consolidation of the party. This program will also provide the opportunity to formulate specific and clear slogans and to determine long-term objectives and phases of party work with various social strata in our country, on the basis of which all strata of our society [words indistinct] are united in the accomplishment of the duties of the national and democratic revolution in its present stage of development. For this purpose, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo proposes that in the near future an all-nation conference of the PDPA be convened.

"In this conference it will be necessary to discuss further the organizational and political consolidation of the party, to secure its unbreakable link with the broad masses of the people and to determine its duties. Approval of the action program for the near future will be the central issue in the work of the conference."

"(?It is useful) to effect a series of amendments and changes in the existing charter of the party. In this conference, it will be possible to approve other documents of importance for our country and for our party. Preparations for the general conference and its convocation should be carried out by broad political propaganda aiming at the further unity of our party and uniting around it the best delegates of our country and broad masses of the toilers to incite [words indistinct] revolutionary courage in the body of its full and candidate members."

"The accomplishment of this task is the fundamental duty of all party committees and organizations."

Comrades: To conclude, it is necessary to mention once again that the formation of this important political association, on which we have to decide, must secure further progress of the party and government. It should help consolidate the unity of the party, enhance the leadership's role in society and government and become a powerful tool for the unity of the party gathering all people around the PDPA and revolutionary government."

SECURITY FORCES REPORT SUCCESSES IN PROVINCES

LD201736 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Four gangs of thieves and murderers were recently crushed as a result of revolutionary activities of officers and troops of the security forces and our heroic armed forces in Farah, Herat, Chowr and Lowgar Provinces. A number of their ringleaders were also killed and arms and weapons of these imperialist and reactionary agents were seized by the security forces.

According to a report from the Farah security forces, a 15-member band of rebels, together with their ringleader, named Qazi, were crushed in (Deyak) village near the provincial capital. One light machinegun, 1 rocket launcher, 3 .303-caliber rifles, 20 handgrenades and a quantity of ammunition were captured from them.

Other reports from the security authorities say that another gang of the remnants of the rebel banks, with their gangleader (Sayd Ghafur), were crushed in the Pashtun Zarghun District of Herat Province.

Similarly, another band of these criminals, led by ('Abdol Ghafur), were crushed in one of the suburbs of the Chowr provincial capital. One .303 rifle, one revolver and some ammunition were seized from them by the security force.

Another group of murderers and looters was crushed in the Safid Sang area of Mohammad Agha District, Lowgar Province. The group looted the property of travellers on the main highway. Their leader, who introduced himself as (Joma Gol, son of Mohammad Jan), was captured with his machinegun and revolver.

MUJAHIDIN TO CONCENTRATE ACTIVITY IN CITIES

GF181824 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 16 Dec 81 p 1

[Excerpt] London, 15 Dec (AAP) -- Having compiled a list of active supporters of the Karmal administration in Kabul, Qandahar, Ghazni and Herat, a vast guerrilla force of 5,000 mujahidin has entered Kabul to kill supporters of Babrak Karmal. The 7,000 guerrillas already in the Kabul area have also been alerted. According to the commanders of the freedom fighters, the mujahidin have now decided to concentrate on the cities instead of the countryside, where Soviet troops would like to keep them engaged in a war of attrition.

The AAP representative, who has met secretly with guerrilla leaders and has visited several training camps, has revealed in a dispatch that the mujahidin are not as poorly armed as they were 2 years ago, when they would make desperate suicide attacks against the enemy. Out of the 12,000 mujahidin, 70 percent now have automatic weapons, rifles or machineguns. Mujahidin with automatic rifles have 300 rounds of ammunition, while those with locally made rifles have 200 rounds each.

RAO: STRONGER RELATIONS WITH U.S. BEING SOUGHT

BK170834 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that India is trying to further strengthen relations with the United States. Stating this in a written reply during question hour, minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao said that there has been an exchange of correspondence between Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He said Mrs Gandhi held lengthy discussions with Reagan at Cancun and it is hoped the meeting resulted in a better understanding of India's views by the United States.

In reply to another question Rao said the visit of the U.S. secretary of state has now been postponed at the initiative of the American side. He was to lead his country's delegation to the Indo-U.S. joint commission. He said it was agreed at Cancun that the two countries would further intensify their bilateral exchange of views at various levels.

GANDHI ON PAKISTAN'S NO-WAR PACT OFFER, KASHMIR

BK191602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] The prime minister has declared that India is ready to begin talks with Pakistan on a no-war pact as long as it is based on honesty and sincerity. Addressing her party workers in Dehra Dun this evening, Mrs Gandhi said the talks should be bilateral and no third country should interfere.

She said the statement of Pakistan President Gen Ziaul Haq that Kashmir should form part of the talks has cast doubts on Islamabad's intentions. The prime minister reiterated that Kashmir is an integral part of India and there cannot be any discussion on that.

The prime minister said India wants peace all over the world. India was the first country to offer a no-war pact to Pakistan and the response from that country was not encouraging. Pakistan on the one hand talks of a no-war pact with India, while at the same time starts acquiring arms from other countries.

Mrs Gandhi said both India and Pakistan face acute poverty and people of the two countries will be greatly relieved if they avoid conflict and work together for the eradication of poverty.

Referring to opposition allegations, Mrs Gandhi asked them to cite one incident where she had been dictatorial. She charged the opposition with spreading rumors and indulging in character assassination.

Mrs Gandhi urged the women to launch an antidowry movement and undertake other measures to improve the lot of women. She said a society that does not honor women cannot make progress.

RAO ON SINO-INDIAN TALKS, NO-WAR PACT OFFER

BK191615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] India considers that the recent talks in Beijing on the Sino-Indian border issue were useful as both the countries have agreed to keep the matter open and resolve it amicably.

External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao told the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi today that the two sides have now to think of a next move. The last meeting was of a preliminary nature at which the two sides outlined their respective positions. Though there has not been any substantial progress, he thought, it was the attitude of the two countries that is important.

Members, regardless of party affiliations, emphasized the importance of the border question. They said this issue is pivotal to the whole process of normalization of relations with China.

About Pakistan, Narasimha Rao was of the view that the so-called offer of a no-war pact did not touch the substance of the issues involved. Pakistan has merely expressed its willingness to enter into a dialogue with India without spelling out a proposal, nor had it clarified the reasons for rejecting India's repeated offers for a no-war pact made in the past.

Some of the members were of the view that Pakistan was merely trying to gain a propaganda advantage from its move. Rao, however, made it clear that India could not get involved in such exercises only for propaganda purposes. These are important matters affecting the peace and stability of the whole region. We will try to find out what exactly Pakistan wants because, simultaneously with their offer, they go on acquiring massive sophisticated weapons.

RAO ON PAKISTAN'S ASSURANCE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

BK170831 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] India has conveyed to Pakistan her concern about certain aspects of that country's nuclear program. This was stated by Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. He said that the government has seen reports that Pakistan is suspected of diverting fuel for bombs. Rao said that Pakistan has given an assurance that they do not propose to go on for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. He hoped that Pakistan will abide by this assurance.

Replying to another question Rao said that the government has seen reports in the press to the effect that Saudi Arabia is to finance the F-16 purchases by the Pakistan Government. The minister said the government has from time to time appraised the government of Saudi Arabia of its views regarding the effect that such acquisition of sophisticated arms by Pakistan will have in heightening tensions between India and Pakistan.

BANGLADESH DELEGATION ARRIVES ON 10-DAY VISIT

BK170707 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] A high-power Bangladesh delegation has arrived in New Delhi on a 10-day good-will visit at the invitation of Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar. It is led by Mirza Gholam Hafiz, the speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament. During its stay in New Delhi the delegation will call on the president, the vice president, the prime minister and other ministers.

Better Relations Sought

BK200932 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament Mirza Gholam Hafiz has said his country stands for forging better relations with her neighbors, including India. He told UNITED NEWS OF INDIA in an interview in New Delhi today that there should be greater exchanges of parliamentary, cultural, trade and sports delegations to promote friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Mirza Hafiz is leading a five-member parliamentary delegation to India. He described his visit to India as very fruitful and rewarding.

18 DEC VIOLATIONS BY AFGHAN GUNSHIPS PROTESTED

BK201559 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with Afghanistan over the serious violation of its airspace by six Afghan helicopter gunships on Friday [18 December].

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and informed that six Afghan helicopter gunships violated Pakistan airspace on Friday at 0915 [0415 GMT]. They penetrated up to 800 yards in the (Bangiddar) area, 28 km north of Miranshah in the North Waziristan Agency.

The helicopters strafed a refugee camp and fired rockets, killing one child and destroying two houses. While a strong protest was lodged against this barbarous activity, the Afghan charge d'affaires was also told that attacks by Afghan troops are continuing on Pakistan's territory and innocent people are being killed and property damaged. Because of these serious violations, peace has been endangered and tension is increasing.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was told that the Kabul authorities should be informed that they should refrain from such provocative activities because they might bring serious consequences.

TALPUR ON NO-WAR PACT OFFER, AFGHAN VIOLATIONS

BK181533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 81

[Text] Federal Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur has reiterated Pakistan's desire to stabilize peace and security in the region. He said this is the way by which we can devote our fullest attention to our economic development.

In an interview with PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL in Karachi he referred in this context to Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact to India. He said Pakistan has made this offer with full sincerity and it expresses the government's desire to live in peace with its neighbors. He stressed the need for creating a better atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding between the two countries so that the two peoples, who have already faced three wars, can lead a life of peace free from danger.

Referring to the Indian hue and cry over Pakistan's purchase of arms, the defense minister said that we have every right to purchase necessary arms for our defense.

On Afghan violations of Pakistan's airspace, he said that Pakistan is ready to contain any external danger facing the country. Our independence and territorial security will be protected at any cost, he added.

BRIEFS

ADB LOAN -- The Asian Development Bank in Manila on 15 December announced a concessional loan of \$50 million for Pakistan. Out of the amount, \$35 million will be spent for rural electrification while the remaining \$15 million will be utilized for development of health facilities in the rural areas of Punjab. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Dec 81 BK]

RAFSANJANI ON WAR, ISRAELI ACTIONS, POW ISSUE

LD181916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 81

[Friday prayers' sermon given by Tehran Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 18 December at Tehran University; recorded]

[Text] Iran's victory on the fronts, the outcome of the fiasco of the Fes conference, Israel's new crime in officially annexing the Golan Heights to the occupied territories, the misleading propaganda carried out by the colonialist mouthpieces against Iran in connection with Bahrain and POW's and the grave injustice perpetrated by the Saudis and Kuwaitis against the Islamic nations in lowering the price of oil: All these are interrelated. The root cause of the issue is constituted by our revolution and the growth of Islamic thought on a world scale. Whenever we are victorious at the front, this is provocative to and weighs heavily on our enemies waging battle against us on various fronts. The conquest of Bostan, the victory in Gilan-e Gharb, the shooting down of a great many Iraqi aircraft which Iraq receives from France, certainly thanks to the blood of the heart of its people -- all these things have given headaches to our enemies. So they reason that they should put pressure on the Islamic Republic by various means. The hearts of the nations and revolutionaries of the world have been gladdened and are therefore putting pressure on their antinational leaders.

Thanks to pressure applied by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Fahd plan was defeated, but in order to encourage its flunkies the United States gave the green light to Israel so that the Israeli parliament could officially annex the Golan Heights. We have said what we have to say in this connection and we do not think that the problem can be solved with words. We do not consider the replies given by the Arab and Islamic governments to be sufficient. Israel is so thickskinned and has heard so much censure and condemnation in this connection that any further condemnations and votes against it would be immaterial.

What is needed is action. If we wish to tie Israel's hands, we should begin by tying the hands of the United States, mere words will not suffice. The United States does not care -- if we remain its servants -- who calls it names. That is unimportant. So come and let us act seriously. Instead of sitting idle and reducing the price of every barrel of oil by 50-70 cents and pouring the same into the pockets of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan and other industrial countries, come and, like Iran, put up with difficulties to a certain extent and stand up and say: We shall no longer give you oil! It would be sufficient if the Persian Gulf countries -- and I do not mean all of them -- if the Persian Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Iraq, Iran, were to say: We shall not give our oil. Let us stop the oil for a month and be serious about it. Let us also tell them: We shall turn off the oil taps and if you come we will blow them up. By God, if we were to do such a thing the United States would not dare to defend Israel!

But what are we [deafening applause drowns his words] But what are we to do? In these very circumstances when they perpetrate these crimes, Saudi Arabia comes along and Mr Yamani proclaims: We wish to give the Western world a Christmas present! What a present! This is tantamount to taking more than \$10 million, more than 80 million tomans daily from the pockets of this people and pouring the same into the pockets of the oil companies! What a small present!

This is one side of the issue and the other is pandering to them. But my dear fellow, one can resist. We have been carrying out a revolution for the past 3 years. We have reduced our oil output from 6 million to 200,000 barrels and our people have remained patient. We have been waging a war for a year, for a year and 3 months. We are producing less oil and purchasing more goods than ever before as we are waging a war; it is obvious how expensive war is.

In the meantime, Iraq received a loan of \$14 billion and is now receiving more loans, but this nation has been waging war in this manner and you can see for yourselves that this is possible since other nations are ready. This nation has stood behind and held the front so firmly that even if we did not possess a single drop of oil, the people would warm up the battle with their blood. [deafening applause]

Undoubtedly, if today the Muslim oil-bearing countries alone were to decide to defeat Israel and to defeat the United States in the region this would be possible by resorting to the measure which I have humbly proposed. Of course, this would have a number of consequences, difficult consequences, a number of you countries have such tremendous reserves that if you were to not sell oil for 10 years it would not matter. But suppose you did not sell it, so what? The nations are prepared.

Unfortunately, these people are acting in a contrary manner. Instead of our sitting together, uniting and thinking these days, instead of these people putting an end to their dirty work they come along and create noise and din against Iran.

They find a few people in Bahrain and then they say: These people were once in Iran, they received military training in Iran and now Iran is guilty since these people have gone to Bahrain to do this and that. The mouthpieces of France, Germany, the United States, all and sundry magnify this report and Saudi Arabia also repeats it. Well, you are the same people, you are the same France who has taken such official terrorists as Bani-Sadr and Rajavi to your bosom and to whom you are giving interviews. You are also lifting your heads high under the pretext of defending democracy! Well, if a number of people were in Iran for a few days and then went to Bahrain would Iran become guilty, would Iran become a terrorist?

Just as you saw, they raised the issue of the POW's. They created a noise and din about this issue. The POW's themselves when interviewed here say: The Iranians showed us a great deal of affection. We have shown hospitality to the Iraqis whether they are POW's or refugees. You are still deporting people unjustly and yet we receive them at the border and bring them in and accord them hospitality!

VELAYATI INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN POLICIES

LD201834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave a radio and television interview this afternoon, and answered our correspondent's questions. In this interview he gave explanations regarding his programs at the Foreign Ministry and the conspiratorial policies of world imperialism, headed by America, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Velayati, you who are in charge of the Foreign Ministry, would you tell us about your ministry programs?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. From the time when the late Mr Raja'i -- (?may his soul rest in peace) -- took care of the Foreign Ministry in addition to the post of prime minister, the true reconstruction of the Foreign Ministry started; our dear brother Musavi continued this task. God willing, we hope to continue the work of these dear ones. If God wishes, the basic tasks will be expedited. In our opinion, the most important thing that the Foreign Ministry should do is to adopt an active and all-embracing international policy. In this connection, our embassies abroad should be basically reconstructed, so that the activities of these embassies and their appearance would show the true nature of the Islamic Republic. Of course, for this, one needs committed, Muslim people who follow the line of theocratic rule and who are industrious, intelligent and wise; at least 800 such people are required to fill the gap which exists in our diplomatic representative offices abroad. You would agree with me that to provide such a great force, comprising of individuals who possess extraordinary talents, is not an easy task. I hope that God will help us, so that we can carry this heavy burden.

[Question] The issue that has been raised recently on an international level is the annexation of the Golan Heights by the Zionist regime. How do (see) this issue?

[Answer] The basic problem of the Islamic countries in (the region) is the existence of the regime occupying Jerusalem in the holy land of Palestine. As we have repeatedly announced, our policy is to fight against this son of correction of the region, under the blanket of the unity of all Islamic countries; the only way to fight against Israel is by armed struggle. We believe that force should be answered with force. The experience of the past decades has shown that Israel and its protectors are not faithful to the decisions of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Israel has been condemned at the United Nations and the Security Council dozens of times for various reasons but it has not heeded the decisions of international gatherings. For example, recently -- we think -- in connections with the failure of the Fes conference the imam's message; the efforts of the steadfastness front countries and the Palestinian resistance movement, America has tried, so to speak, to punish those who have been more active and who have shown the most resistance. Regarding Syria, the United States has given Israel a green light for this illegal annexation.

Regarding Libya, the United States started an extensive propaganda attack against our brother country, Libya, with the ridiculous claim that the Libyan Government has sent a group to assassinate Mr Reagan. This sounds more like a joke, and shows that imperialism is trying to prepare the grounds for future -- and possibly military -- aggression by America and this so-called united front of world blasphemy, headed by America, against Libya. We know that Libya and our other brother country, Syria, are being punished for their resistance to previous American plots, especially for bringing about the failure of the Fes conference.

[Question] My last question concerns the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union since in a few days it will be the anniversary of its occupation. What is your view on this?

[Answer] The 2-year experience of the occupation of Afghanistan should have taught the Soviet Union that one cannot forcibly overcome a people or a nation that has risen while relying on a deep faith, and who are defending their integrity and Islamic identity. In the past we have had many similar cases; most similar and most recent was the occupation of Vietnam by the Americans, who after years of war were forced to retreat from Vietnam. These 2 years should have been a useful example for the Soviet Union for it to evacuate Afghanistan as soon as possible, and to leave that nation to determine its own fate. We believe that final victory will be that of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

SAUDI ARABIA-BAHRAIN SECURITY AGREEMENT SCORED

LD192328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting the ASSOCIATED PRESS, has reported that the Saudi Arabian interior minister arrived in the capital of Bahrain today to sign a mutual security agreement between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

It is worth noting that the exchange of this accord is aimed at arming the region's reactionaries further against the Islamic revolution. The imperialists' recent efforts to create a hostile climate against Iran, alleging foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Bahrain, is only to justify the greater presence of the U.S. forces and its deadly weapons in the region. Since the United States does not dare to have a physical presence in the region, it has allocated this task to its associate and lackey, Saudi Arabia, thus suppressing any movement by the Islamic revolution in the region.

MUSAVI DENIES IRAQI CHARGES ON BEIRUT EXPLOSION

LD201450 Tehran PARS in English 1035 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 20 Dec [Words indistinct] denying the Iraqi regime's allegations that Iran and Syria were responsible for the recent explosion in the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, Prime Minister Musavi said "We do not need to resort to such terroristic measures while our devoted people are facing with the enemy in such a brave manner and are defeating them, being martyred for the sake of God. There would be no need to plant bombs. This cannot be done by our revolutionary forces".

Prime Minister Musavi, who was speaking to PARS at the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting this morning, said that the so-called suspension of negotiations for strategic cooperation between the U.S. and the regime occupying Al-Quds, subsequent to the annexation of Golan Heights, was a seeming withdrawal. He added that this suspension was just to beguile the world's public opinion but was apparently against the strategic unity between the U.S. and the (?regime) occupying Al-Quds. Musavi continued (?that) such a unity could not be eliminated since the fates of the occupier regime of [words indistinct] that of the U.S. were (?intertwined and in fact) the overthrow of either of them would mean the destruction of the other party.

MUSAVI, BANKI ADDRESS PLANNING SEMINAR

LD191824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] The first seminar for planning the country's socioeconomic future opened this morning at the headquarters of the Plan and Budget Organization in the presence of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. During the seminar's first session, the prime minister, while recalling the country's past difficulties and economic problems, explained the highlights of the economic policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In part of his speech he said: Three years after our revolution we are now at a juncture whereby we can, in effect, think of planning. Before now, such a task was impossible. Previously there existed multifarious currents in our country which were influenced by the West and East and which opposed each other on the political arena. At that time the vistas and prospects of the country's economy and its political and social future were extremely tangled and unclear. The aim of the Islamic revolution was of course perfectly obvious, but what was active on the political arena had such a range of multifarious aims and depicted such a range of contradictory pictures that the possibility of any planning on the basis of definitive principles and aims did not exist.

According to our correspondent's report, the prime minister, after referring to the problems in relation with the Eastern and Western viewpoints which emerged following the victory of the revolution, particularly during Bani-Sadr's presidential term of office, said: We encountered these tensions during the past 3 years and now only one system and one line of action has found stability from the viewpoint of the general aims and prospects which one could envisage for the Islamic Republic; these vistas and prospects are coupled with unity and unison [as heard].

The prime minister then added: The establishment of this line enables us for the first time to think of planning. When a system reaches such a level that it can give itself the opportunity to ponder its long-term economic and political aims, it demonstrates the fact that it has left behind a great many of the tensions. We are now in exactly such a situation.

In his speech today, while referring to the difficulties which bar the path to planning, and while pointing out the role of the Plan and Budget Organization in the country's overall economic planning, the prime minister pointed that government institutions and organizations should explain their activities and plans to the people via the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other mass media.

At the conclusion of his speech he said: The government will proclaim the year 1982 [next Iranian year beginning 21 March 1982] as the year for planning and -- God willing -- in the following year the country's economic policy and economic planning will take shape thanks to the special, long-term plans which will be made.

Our correspondent also reports that at today's session of the seminar, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the representative of the Qom religious seminary at the Supreme Economic Council, also spoke about the peculiarities of the Islamic economy. He emphasized that one could not visualize and assess Islam's economic system separately from its political, moral and social systems.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri also pointed out that contrary to the capitalist economy -- which is based purely on private ownership; and contrary to the socialist economy which works on the basis of the abolition of private ownership -- the Islamic economy enjoys lawful private ownership, government ownership and public or national ownership existing side by side under the power and supervision of the ruler.

Mr Banki, minister of state and supervisor of the Plan and Budget Organization, today replied to questions by our correspondent. This is what he said about the issues raised at the seminar:

[Begin recording] [Banki] The seminar which was held today was the outcome of a decision approved by the Economic Council and the Cabinet whereby it was decided that the country's planning system should be compiled and implemented as soon as possible. After establishing the sovereignty of the imam's line this need was increasingly felt and seen as the last redoubt whereby we could overcome the United States and its plans for Iran. Therefore, there is the need for genuine planning, tallying with the Islamic yardstick and springing from our Constitution. The Economic Council worked out a plan in accordance with which committees were nominated for identifying the realm's economic structure so that the realm's planning system would be worked out and compiled.

Today is the first day of the 2-day seminar during which it is envisaged that this system should be discussed, views on it aired and, finally, put forward as a comprehensive proposal to the Economic Council and ultimately to the Cabinet and the Majlis.

[Question] Could you please tell us what are the specific peculiarities of this plan being developed?

[Answer] On the whole, our planning system has sprung from the overall viewpoint represented by our Constitution. The plans begin in the villages and village councils, are put forward at the town councils, are studied by the provincial councils and then become local, regional and provincial draft plans. There are another series of plans which, if I may say so, are national plans. These too are compiled by joint planning councils of the (?Plan) Organization and various regions and finally are put forward as a major plan, a plan which reviews all the realm's capabilities and needs, coordinates them, and then, as a comprehensive plan it will be put forward by the Plan Organization, the Economic Council and ultimately by the Cabinet or Majlis; it is ultimately decided on by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Council of Guardians and so forth.

[Question] Has this plan a time deadline?

[Answer] Yes, as you can see, today is the start of work on district and provincial planning, and by the month of Aban 1361 [23 October-21 November 1982] we hope to have this system compiled and approved by the Majlis -- God willing -- so much so that our budget for the year 1983 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1983] which is tantamount to a 1-year plan, would emanate from this plan, so that we would be able to organize and work out, as of 23 October 1982, all our economic, social, educational and cultural plans on the basis of the plans we are now drawing up.

[Question] You have pointed out that the plans emanate from the village, town and other councils. Do these people enjoy any independence in deciding in accordance with their needs, or, if they make any proposal, is there a possibility that these might be rejected?

[Answer] If I may say so, these people are merely commissioned to work out and compile the needs of a region and the plans which are to be carried out for meeting these needs. However, one should pay heed to an issue here -- a plan and planning are aimed at coordinating the capabilities with needs, as needs are unlimited while capabilities are extremely limited. This is why the needs are specified by the people, but -- since the government has the information at its disposal and its capabilities are limited -- capabilities and needs are coordinated and are not rejected. For instance, they propose 5-year plan, a 20-year plan and this means that the needs concerned should be met, yet this cannot be done in 1 year, in 2 years, but is carried out over a period of time. Moreover, in my opinion it would not be correct if we were to speak of the rejection of the plan, but rather the coordination of the capabilities and needs, which, to be implemented, requires a longer period of time. [end recording]

KHAMENE'I CHAIRS SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL SESSION

LD191730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, all members of the Supreme Defense Council met tonight with President Khamene'i in the chair.

The council discussed the general situation on the war fronts and strategies adopted by the Islamic forces in encountering the infidel forces of Saddam.

Interview on Meeting

LD192354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Interview with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on topics discussed at the 19 December Supreme Defense Council meeting -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr President, what topics were discussed and what decisions were made at tonight's Supreme Defense Council meeting?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At tonight's meeting, military reports, as usual, were the first topics to be discussed by the brother members of the army and guards. First, the chief of staff showed our positions and those of the enemy's forces on a map, and then Brother Reza'i, the commander of the guards who was present at the meeting, gave us the latest details of the positions of our forces in the west and south. The next issue discussed concerned the long-term projects of the Joint Staff with regard to the country's defense, which is vital and of extreme importance. The chief of staff presented a report on these projects and a discussion was held. It was decided that the discussion would continue in the next meeting.

The other topic discussed concerned the air force's requests and its problems in connection with the Supreme Defense Council. The commander of the air force was present at the meeting and after putting forth his requests told us, along with the defense minister, the good news on the victories of the brother members of the air force and [word indistinct], who are cooperating with them on very important technical matters concerning the air force. In reality, this is among our successes and progress, which is no less important than the victories on the fronts.

There were a few other topics discussed. Some were minor and a few were important and, of course, some of them will be announced in the future. There are some important issues that will be discussed immediately.

[Question] Recently, one of the news agencies belonging to the world's oppressors citing the Pentagon reported that Iran allegedly has asked to purchase F-14 spare parts. Was there any discussion on this matter?

[Answer] This particular point was not raised in this meeting. It did not need to be raised, because our Foreign Ministry has already denied it. I too deny the report here and now. It is absolutely untrue. We have made no request and taken no action to purchase any spare parts for F-14 or any other aircraft or military equipment from America, either directly or indirectly. In the past, during the previous regime, according to the famous (?FMS) contracts, large sums of money were deposited by the former regime to a U.S. account. The Americans, according to their estimates and evaluations, were delivering to Iran [words indistinct] and these present F-14's, and most of the military equipment was sold to Iran on the same account. According to these contracts, America has a considerable amount of spare parts for these aircraft. These spare parts are owned by the Iranian nation and belong to the people, because they have been paid for with the people's money. After the revolution some attempts -- though not many -- were made to retrieve the parts. However, this coincided with some crises between us and America which led to America's refusal to hand over the spare parts. They are still refusing to make them available. Now, if they hand this equipment over to us, if we demand the shipment of the spare parts -- which is not the case, because no action, no serious action has been taken as far as I am concerned -- even then it would not be considered as a new contract or a new purchase. These are the transactions agreed upon in the past [words indistinct] items owned by Iranians and held by Americans. Therefore, they must turn them over to us.

[Question] Following the recent defeats suffered by the enemy forces, Saddam has once again announced that peace missions [words indistinct] that this has resulted in some sort of stagnation as far as establishing peace between Iran and Iraq is concerned. What do you say to this?

[Answer] It appears that the Iraqi regime is becoming more motivated to make peace. We say that if this is the case -- then it is very simple: The person who wants peace should end aggression. Saddam Husayn ought to withdraw his forces from our territory and position them beyond our borders. Then we would believe that he is sincere and when we see that he is for peace, obviously we will not have a desire for war. Then we come to the question of war damages, of course, and to the question of punishing the aggressor. These are questions which are still valid. However, there would no longer be the question of continuing the war. But what is not acceptable is his levelling accusations at peace missions and presenting himself as a peace-seeking person while his aggressive forces continue to carry out maneuvers in our country's deserts and mountains.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

MO'INPUR ON REINSTATEMENT OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

LD201540 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 81

["Exclusive" interview with Air Force Commander Col Mohammad Hasan Mo'inpur on 20 December; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Extensive propaganda is being made of the fact that we have purchased spare parts for our F-14 fighters from America. As commander of the air force, how do you interpret this?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Adequate explanations were given last night by the president after he attended the Supreme Defense Council. I support his remarks 100 percent. This is part of international Zionist propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Question] An Iraqi Air Force pilot has admitted that he went on a mission after only 100 hours' flying time. How do our forces approach this issue?

[Answer] [passage indistinct] In the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force every care is taken to enable our pilots to pass through certain stages before taking part in missions inside or outside Iran.

[Question] Could you please explain what measures have been taken so far with regard to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the air force?

[Answer] Well, the issue has already been raised several times. Unfortunately, the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran were the same as those opposing the advancement of the Islamic revolution within the air force. The changes in the air force began after the flight of Bani-Sadr and his associates on 30 July of this year.

Consequently, the air force was left with no choice but to make certain changes so that it could implement other plans and also continue its air battle against the blasphemous Ba'thist enemy.

In this connection, it was decided to implement this plan for a period of 3 months [passage indistinct]. This first 3-month plan was not pursued after 36-37 days, for there was no need for it; so we canceled it and announced the cancellation by means of a memorandum to everyone, stating that the plan for (?changes) in the air force had been permanently abolished and that it would no longer be continued.

The other [word indistinct] plan began on 23 October and will continue until 21 April 1982. The plan is being carefully studied. I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that to date a great many people, considering the great extent of Islamic mercy, pardon and leniency, have already been reinstated, with many more expected to return.

Consequently, we call on all our brothers and sisters covered by this plan, whether officers, technicians, NCO's or employees, to report to the special bureau of [word indistinct] commander. Their turn will come, for the appeal team is dealing with the issue quite speedily. If any mistake has been made it will be rectified. Cases which could be rectified by showing some leniency will be dealt with. Hopefully, these people will return to their jobs and continue their work. Thus, despite their being referred to various sources, we call on them to report to the special bureau of the air force. Those reinstated will be able to collect their salary and allowance for the last 2-3 months. They have nothing to worry about.

[Question] Would you please comment on the cooperation between the air force and other forces, including the Revolution Guards Corps?

[Answer] I must say that they have always enjoyed good cooperation. However, in the last 4-5 months that I have had the honor of serving, the air force has provided maximum cooperation with all the other forces, the ground forces, the navy, the corps and the gendarmerie as well as other popular forces. It is a source of great pleasure that extremely close and sincere cooperation exists among other forces, the corps and the air force. We have always provided any assistance they required, for we are all moving forward within the same rank and in a brotherly manner.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 733-735

733: 18 Dec Report

LD181734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 81

[Communique 733 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The combative personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, defending their positions, opened heavy fire on the positions, fortifications and weapons of the aggressors during the last 24 hours, inflicting effective losses and casualties. In the Gilan-e Gharb area, the ground forces directed artillery fire against enemy installations and assembly centers in the (Chogha Mamam) plain, destroying 50 vehicles of various makes and 1 fuel truck and killing about 150 Iraqi soldiers.

On all the fronts in this area, our forces crushed any resistance put up by the enemy. During these operations, 2 tanks, 12 trenches, 2 vehicles, 2 heavy machineguns and 1 gun were destroyed and 1 ammunition dump and 22 enemy tents were set on fire.

In the western Dezful area, our combative personnel completely destroyed six observation posts, one antiaircraft gun, four vehicles, three trenches and one ammunition dump and killed or wounded a number of the Saddamists.

The Navy of the Islamic forces of Iran fired on enemy positions in the Abadan and Khuninshahr operational areas, destroying one assembly building, three trenches, six weapon storage trenches, one mortar and three vehicles. A number of Iraqi servicemen were also killed.

734: 19 Dec Report

LD191754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Communique 734 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. The valiant combatants of the irregular tribal forces in the regions of Tang-e Hajiyan, Dar Ballut, Bazi Deraz and Sonboleh yesterday answered the enemy's fierce fire and, while silencing the mercenary Saddam's forces, set on fire and destroyed three enemy tanks and one ammunition truck.

The self-sacrificing combatants of Imam Khomeyni's devotees, in the course of a successful operation launched on 17 December, mopped up the region of (Ezgeleh) and stationed themselves in the (Babin) heights. The imam's devotees succeeded to inflict heavy blows on the enemy's artillery units.

Exchanges of artillery fire continued yesterday on almost all the western fronts; these exchanges were more intense on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts.

The Iraqi aggressor forces, who had embarked upon a counteroffensive on one of the Gilan-e Gharb fronts on 17 December, faced valiant resistance from the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and, leaving behind 200 dead and injured, they were forced to retreat.

In the past 24 hours on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts, the self-sacrificing combatants of the Airborne Division succeeded in destroying 1 enemy 106-mm cannon, 1 75-mm cannon, 1 ammunition dump and 6 trenches belonging to the aggressor and mercenary armed forces of Saddam.

On the Shur-e Shirin front too, the valiant gendarmerie mounted fire on the enemy positions and inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces. During these attacks, a number of Iraqi trenches and observation posts were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded.

On Dezful's western fronts, the combatants of the ground forces, while defending their protected areas and mounting fire on the enemy positions, destroyed one enemy tank, two 122-mm mortars, and four trenches, and killed a number of Iraqi forces. The ground forces also answered the enemy's fire valiantly and had the enemy's movements under their observation.

On the Abadan front, as a result of fire mounted by one of the ground force's able units, losses and casualties inflicted on the enemy included the destruction of more than 20 trenches and foxholes together with their occupants, the destruction of 3 mortars and 1 106-mm cannon and the killing or injuring of more than 20 Iraqi troops.

In the course of battles on 15, 16 and 17 December, 9 self-sacrificing combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the lofty rank of martyrdom.

735: 20 Dec Report

LD201720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Communique 735 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Over the past 24 hours, battles were in progress on most of the battlefronts in the southern and western parts of the country, with exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire between our victorious forces and the enemy. Our combatants, while maintaining control over and providing effective defense of regions under their protection, where the aggressors were positioned, strongly crushed any enemy attempt at movement and redeployment, and pounded their positions.

Fire executed by ground-to-air defense units hit an intruding enemy aircraft at 1020 today. It crashed in the (Kuh Gach) region near Siah Kuh. Our untiring personnel, continuing their operations in the Gilan-e Gharb region, opened fire on enemy positions and tanks destroying 1 tank, including its crew, 1 munitions dump and 10 Iraqi trenches. Fifty enemy troops were killed. In another operation carried out on one of the fronts in the same region, Islam's forces destroyed five enemy vehicles carrying ammunition and three tanks, and set fire to several enemy dugouts housing troops and tanks. A number of Saddamists were killed or wounded.

The combatants of the ground forces in a region west of Dezful directed artillery fire on enemy positions and destroyed one vehicle, one machinegun emplacement and several trenches belonging to the aggressors, killing at least six of them. In addition, they inflicted damage to a 106-mm gun.

Yesterday heavy-weapon fire by Saddam's army on civilian areas in Abadan caused the martyrdom and injury of a number of our compatriots in this city and the destruction of several homes.

Martyrs of the army of Islam in battles on 18 December totalled 23, of whom 14 belonged to the Ground Forces and 1 to the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [figures as heard]. May God's benediction and mercy be upon them.